United Nations S/2007/762

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 December 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 24 December 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Since its establishment on 15 April 1995, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) has been assisting my efforts to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia through contacts with Somali leaders, civic organizations and the States and organizations concerned. UNPOS has also monitored closely the situation in and relating to Somalia and assisted me in providing periodic briefings and written reports to the Security Council.

In my report of 18 February 2005 (S/2005/89), I informed the Security Council that the United Nations had been asked by the Transitional Federal Government, the countries of the region and the international donor community to take the lead in coordinating support to implement the agreements reached at the Somali National Reconciliation Conference and establish peace and stability in Somalia.

The Security Council, in its resolution 1772 (2007), requested me to intensify my efforts to promote an all-inclusive political process, in close partnership with the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union and the International Contact Group on Somalia. In addition, the Council requested me to provide it with an assessment of further measures to strengthen UNPOS to fulfil its enhanced role, including the possibility of relocation from Nairobi to Mogadishu and any security measures that might be necessary for such a move. In this regard, UNPOS is preparing a revised budget which will be finalized in the first quarter of 2008.

In my letter dated 27 August 2007 to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/522) on strengthening the capacity of UNPOS, I informed Council members of my intention to upgrade the post of Head of that Office to the level of Under-Secretary-General. In a subsequent letter dated 20 September 2007 (S/2007/566), I recommended that UNPOS be provided with the necessary resources to implement an integrated United Nations approach for Somalia leading to a common United Nations peacebuilding strategy.

During 2008, the main objectives of UNPOS will be to help to strengthen the Transitional Federal Institutions and foster inclusive dialogue between all Somali parties; coordinate United Nations political, security, electoral, humanitarian and development support to the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions; and work with external partners. UNPOS will support the development of a road map for the Somali peace process in concert with the Transitional Federal Government, the United Nations country team and the international community. UNPOS will also

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work closely with United Nations Headquarters on contingency planning for a possible United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Given the crucial role of UNPOS during this critical juncture of the Somali peace process, it is my intention to continue these activities for the biennium 2008-2009.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon